

Appl. No 10/822,447
Filed: April 8, 2004
Response filed March 7, 2008
Reply to Office action mailed January 7, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in the Application and all were rejected in the final Office action mailed January 7, 2008. No claims are amended by this response. Claims 1, 7, 15, 22, 28, and 36 are independent claims. Claims 2-6, 8-14, 16-21, 23-27, 29-35, and 37-42 depend, respectively, from independent claims 1, 7, 15, 22, 28, and 36.

Applicants respectfully submit that the finality of the instant Office action is premature, that the Office has failed to fully consider and address the arguments presented in the Response filed October 29, 2007, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the final Office action mailed January 7, 2008, for the reasons set forth during prior prosecution, and those that follow.

Examiner's Response to Arguments

As an initial matter, the Applicants note that in the "Response to Arguments", the Examiner states "Applicant's arguments filed on 10/29/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive." See Office action at page 9. Applicants' Representative notes with interest, however, that although the Examiner states that Applicants' arguments are not persuasive, some of the teaching of Huang cited as anticipating the features of Applicants' claims are different from the teaching cited in the Office action mailed July 25, 2007. This appears to suggest that something in Applicants' filing of October 29, 2007 caused the Examiner to reconsider his earlier arguments.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has failed to respond fully to the arguments presented in the Response filed October 29, 2007. In response to Applicants' submission of October 29, 2007 regarding the alleged teachings of Huang cited in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of Applicants' claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-16, 18-

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24, 26-28, 30-37, and 39-42, the Office presents as a complete response, the following text:

Applicant's arguments filed on 10/29/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With regard to applicant's arguments for claims 1-42 that Huang fails to teach, suggest, or disclose at least the following limitations, the examiner respectfully disagrees and points applicants to Huang reference as follows:

With respect to applicant's arguments that Huang fails to disclose a plurality of mobile network devices comprising a buffer that stores incoming digital voice information for a predetermined queuing period before beginning voice reproduction from the stored digital voice information and each of said plurality of portable terminals capture data and generate therefrom data packets, and each of said plurality of portable terminals receive data packets and reproduce data from the data packets received. However, Huang indeed suggests that at a plurality of network devices pertaining to each communication groups [sic] has dedicated buffers for storing voice packets (digital voice information, Figs 1-3, col 3-23) for a predetermined period of time before voice reproduction is performed in order to eliminate jitters (col 3, lines 24-42) for mobile communication units (items 101-110 of Fig 1) in talk groups (col 2, lines 41-52).

Applicants respectfully submit that in the above response the Office offers no explanation or reason why Applicants' arguments are faulty, and does not present any **reasoned explanation** of how and why Huang teaches as the Office alleges. Instead, the above response amounts to little more than a conclusory statement that Huang teaches the limitations of Applicants' claims. Applicants respectfully maintain that the rejections in the Office action mailed July 25, 2007, and the "Response to Arguments" of the instant Office action fail to meet the requirements of M.P.E.P. §2131 for support of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

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Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-16, 18-24, 26-28, 30-37, and 39-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Huang (U.S. Patent 5,434,856). Claims 4, 8, 17, 25, 29, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of Meier et al. (US 5,394,436, hereinafter “Meier”) Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

I. Huang Does Not Anticipate Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-16, 18-24, 26-28, 30-37, And 39-42

Applicants first turn to the rejection of claim 1, which recites “[a] communication network operating to support voice and data communication within a premises, said communication network comprising: a plurality of mobile network devices comprising a buffer that stores incoming digital voice information for a predetermined queuing period before beginning voice reproduction from the stored digital voice information; a stationary network device; a wireless network that is used by each of said plurality of mobile network devices to selectively exchange voice and data packets with others of the plurality of mobile network devices; a hardwired network connected to both said stationary network device and said wireless network; said hardwired network being used to route voice and data packets between said stationary network device and said plurality of mobile network devices which participate via said wireless network; a telephone, connected to said stationary network device, that captures, delivers, receives and reproduces voice in an analog voice stream form; said stationary network device comprising a buffer that stores digital voice information received from said wireless network for a predetermined queuing period before converting the stored digital voice information into an analog voice stream and delivering the analog voice stream to said telephone; and said stationary network device converts analog voice streams received from said telephone into voice packets for delivery via said hardwired and wireless networks to a selected one of said plurality of mobile network devices.”

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With regard to the anticipation rejections, MPEP 2131 states, “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). MPEP 2131 also states, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applicants respectfully maintain that the Office has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation, in that Huang does not teach each and every element of claim 1, as required by M.P.E.P. §2131, for at least the reasons set forth below.

A. Huang Does Not Teach Applicants’ Feature:

“...a plurality of mobile network devices comprising a buffer that stores incoming digital voice information for a predetermined queuing period before beginning voice reproduction from the stored digital voice information;...”

The Office asserts that Huang discloses “...a plurality of mobile network devices (**items 114-116, of Fig. 1**) comprising a buffer (**item 200 of Fig. 2**) that stores incoming digital voice information for a predetermined queuing period before beginning voice reproduction from the stored digital voice information (**col 1, lines 58-67**);....” (emphasis in original.) See page 3 of January 7, 2008 Office action. Huang describes items 114-116 of Fig. 1 as “base stations”, alleging that the “base stations 114-116” of Huang teach the “plurality of mobile network devices” of Applicants’ claim 1. In the absence of guidance from the Office, Applicants reviewed Huang and found that Huang provides a further description of a “base station” at column 2, lines 23-40, which states:

The base stations (114-116), which may be Motorola Smartrepeaters operating in conjunction with a site

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controller, are connected with the frame relay switch (120) via telecommunication links (126-128) such as private telephone lines utilizing T1 or "fractional T1" protocols. The frame relay switch (120), which may be a Motorola Smartzone.RTM. controller, provides relay capability of voice packets between the base stations (114-116) as well as the packet gateway (121). The voice packets are blocks of digitally-compressed voice (coded voice information) logically arranged into groups, identified by at least a talkgroup identification (ID). The packet gateway (121) converts voice packets from the format used by the frame relay switch (120) to that used by the LAN (125). The protocol used by the LAN (125) can be any protocol able to accommodate packetized voice.

The above portion of Huang teaches that base stations are connected to a frame relay switch via links that carry voice packets to/from a packet gateway that converts the voice packets from the format used by the frame relay switch to that used by a LAN. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has misinterpreted the language of claim 1. Applicants' claim 1 clearly recites "a plurality of **mobile** network devices" in contrast to Applicants' recited "**stationary** network device." Those of ordinary skill in the relevant art would not consider a "base station" to be **mobile**, and the Office fails to show where Huang teaches that "base stations 114-116" are mobile. Although a "base station" may be considered a "network device", Huang does not teach that any of the "base stations 114-116" are a "**mobile** network device", as recited by Applicants' claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the "base stations 114-116" of Huang do not teach at least a "plurality of mobile network devices" as recited by Applicants' claim 1.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that neither this portion, nor any other portion or figure of Huang teaches that "base stations 114-116" comprise "...a buffer that stores incoming digital voice information for a predetermined queuing period...", or that "base stations 114-116" perform "...voice reproduction from the stored digital voice

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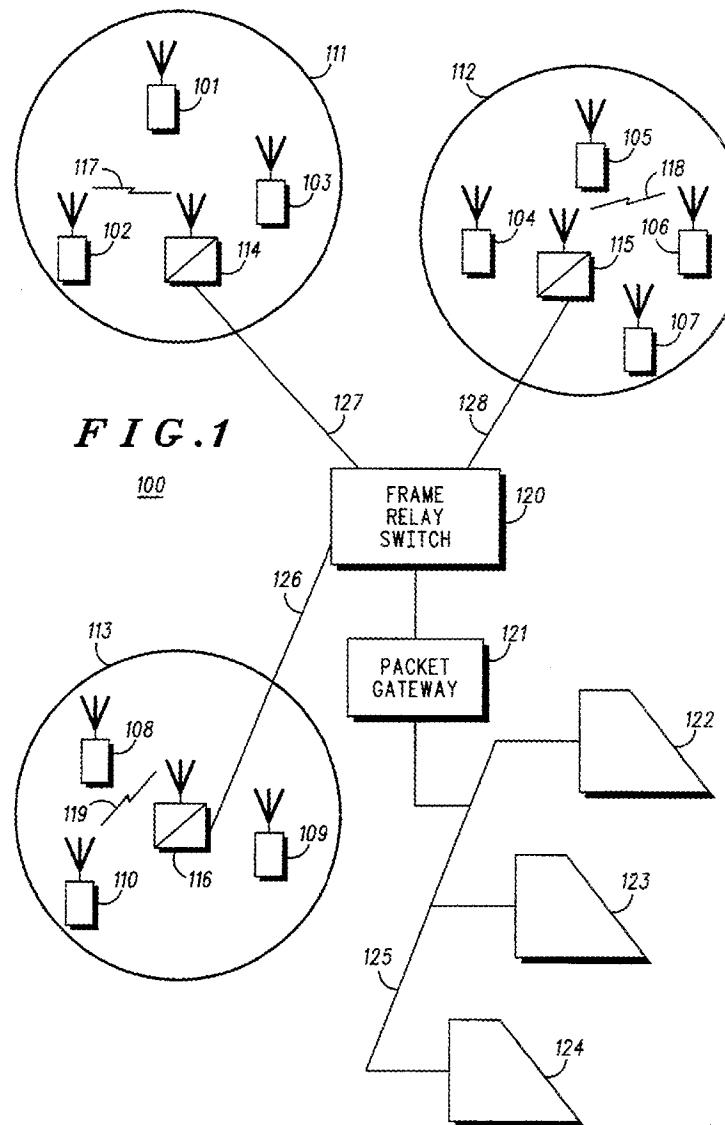
information...”, as recited by Applicants’ claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Huang does not teach at least this aspect of Applicants’ claim 1.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the “buffer” identified by the Office (item 200 of Fig. 2) as part of a “base station” is contained not in any of the “base stations 114-116”, (which the Examiner identified as corresponding to Applicants’ feature “plurality of mobile network devices”), but in “item 200 of Fig. 2” that Huang describes as part of a “console” (items 122-124 of Fig. 1). Huang does not teach that the “consoles 122-124” are part of the “base stations 114-116”, therefore the “buffer 200” of Fig. 2 of Huang is not part of the “base stations 114-116”, identified my the Office as teaching Applicants’ feature “plurality of mobile network device”. Hence, Huang also fails to teach this aspect of Applicants’ claim 1.

B. Huang Does Not Teach Applicants’ Feature:

“...a hardwired network connected to both said stationary network device and said wireless network; said hardwired network being used to route voice and data packets between said stationary network device and said plurality of mobile network devices which participate via said wireless network;...”

The Office action asserts that Huang discloses “...a hardwired network (**LAN, item 125 of Fig 1**) connected to both said stationary network device (**packet gateway**) and said wireless network (**items 111-113 of Fig 1, col 2, lines 1-23**);...” (emphasis in original.) See Office action at pages 3 and 4. Applicants have reproduced Fig. 1 of Huang below.



As can clearly be seen above, Fig. 1 of Huang shows that "LAN 125" connects the "consoles 122-124" to the "packet gateway 121". The "LAN 125" does not, however, connect to both the "packet gateway 121" and the "coverage areas 111-113" (identified by the Office as teaching Applicants' "wireless network"), in accordance with Applicants' claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has failed to show how the "LAN 125" of Fig. 1 of Huang, specifically cited by the Office, teaches this feature of

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Applicants' claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Huang does not teach at least this aspect of Applicants' claim 1.

C. Huang Does Not Teach Applicants' Feature:

"...a telephone, connected to said stationary network device, that captures, delivers, receives and reproduces voice in an analog voice stream form;..."

The Office asserts that Huang discloses "...a telephone (**consoles, item 122 of Fig 1**), connected to said stationary network device, that captures, delivers, receives and reproduces voice in an analog voice stream form (**col 2, lines 41-52**);..." (emphasis in original) See Office action at page 4. Applicants respectfully disagree that the "consoles 122" of Fig. 1 of Huang teach "...a telephone, connected to said stationary network device, that captures, delivers, receives and reproduces voice in an analog voice stream form;...", as recited by Applicants' claim 1.

Regarding the teachings of Fig. 1 of Huang, Applicants respectfully submit that Fig. 1 of Huang simply illustrates the interconnections of a number of entities of a communication system, and does not teach "a telephone" that "...captures, delivers, receives and reproduces voice in an analog voice stream form;...", in accordance with the language of Applicants' claim 1. For example, nothing in Fig. 1 provides any teaching with regard to capturing, delivering, receiving or reproducing voice in an analog voice stream form. Therefore, Fig. 1 of Huang fails to teach at least this aspect of Applicants' claim 1.

Applicants now turn to the alleged teachings of Huang at column 2, lines 41-52, which states:

FIG. 2 illustrates a more detailed depiction of the consoles (122-124) comprising buffers (200-202), decoders (203-205), a data de-multiplexer (206), data routers (207-208), a summer (209), a digital-to-analog converter (D/A)

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(210), and a speaker (211). Received voice packets are stored in their respective buffers (200-202) by the data demultiplexer (206) based on their talkgroup ID. Specifically, each of the buffers (200-202) is uniquely reserved for the storage of voice packets received from each of the communication talkgroups. Storage of the voice packets will be discussed later in further detail.

Applicants respectfully submit that this portion of Huang teaches that the console 122-124 of Huang comprises buffers that each receive voice packets according to a corresponding “talkgroup ID”. However, neither this portion of Huang, specifically cited by the Office, nor any other portion or figure of Huang, teaches that the “consoles 122-124” behave as “a telephone” that “...**captures**, delivers, receives and reproduces **voice in an analog voice stream form...**”, as recited by Applicants’ claim 1. Huang clearly explains, at column 3, lines 3-11, how voice packets are processed after being placed in one of the “buffers 200-202”:

In a preferred embodiment, each decoder (203-205) produces decoded voice information in PCM format. Each stream of decoded voice information is digitally summed with the other decoded voice information by the summer (209). The resulting summed PCM data is converted to analog form by the D/A (210) and rendered audible through the speaker (211). Further understanding of the operation of the consoles (122-124) may be gained from FIG. 3.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that while the “consoles 122-124” act to reproduce voice from voice packets in “buffers 200-202”, the Office has failed to show where and why Huang teaches that the “consoles 122-124” of Huang “capture voice in an analog voice stream form”, as recited by Applicants’ claim 1. Huang provides no such teaching. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the “consoles 122-124” of Huang do not teach at least the “telephone” feature of Applicants’ claim 1.

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D. Huang Does Not Teach Applicants' Features:

“...said stationary network device comprising a buffer that stores digital voice information received from said wireless network for a predetermined queuing period before converting the stored digital voice information into an analog voice stream and delivering the analog voice stream to said telephone;...”

and

“...said stationary network device converts analog voice streams received from said telephone into voice packets for delivery via said hardwired and wireless networks to a selected one of said plurality of mobile network devices.”

The Office asserts that Huang discloses “...said stationary network device comprising a buffer that stores digital voice information received from said wireless network for a predetermined queuing period before converting the stored digital voice information (**voice packets**) into an analog voice stream (**D/A, item 210 of Fig 2, col 3, lines 1-42**) and delivering the analog voice stream to said telephone (**col 2, lines 53-67**);...” and “...said stationary network device converts analog voice streams received from said telephone into voice packets for delivery via said hardwired and wireless networks to a selected one of said plurality of mobile network devices (**col 2, lines 24-40**).” (emphasis in original) See page 4 of Office action. Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office is inconsistent in its interpretations of the teachings of Huang, for the reasons discussed below.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has identified the “stationary network device” feature of Applicants’ claim 1 as being taught by the “packet gateway 121” of Fig. 1 of Huang. See Office action at pages 3 and 4. With regard to Applicants’ features now discussed, the Office suggests that the “packet gateway 121” of Huang teaches a “...stationary network device comprising a buffer that stores digital voice

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information received from said wireless network for a predetermined queuing period before converting the stored digital voice information into an analog voice stream and delivering the analog voice stream to said telephone....” Applicants respectfully disagree with what Huang is alleged to teach.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has failed to show where Huang teaches that the “packet gateway 121” comprises such a buffer, or that the “packet gateway 121” contains a “D/A” or performs such a digital-to-analog conversion function. The “D/A 210” alleged by the Office to teach digital-to-analog (D/A) conversion in the “packet gateway 121” is, in fact, an element within the “consoles 122-124” of Huang, not the “packet gateway 121”. The Office previously identified the “consoles 122-124” as teaching Applicants feature of a “telephone”. Therefore, the Office is now asserting that elements of Huang, clearly identified as being in the “consoles 122-124” of Fig. 1 of Huang, are now in the “packet gateway 121” of Huang. The Office has failed to set forth an explanation of where and why the teachings of Huang support this interpretation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the “packet gateway 121”, which the Office suggests teaches Applicants’ “stationary network device” is different from and does not teach at least this aspect of Applicants’ claim 1.

Applicants now turn to the alleged teachings of Huang at column 2, line 53 to column 3, line 42, which includes the cited portion of Huang (underlined), and which states:

The data routers (207-208) operate to assign a buffer (200-202) to a decoder (203-205) as each decoder becomes available i.e., not in use. In a preferred embodiment, there are K buffers (200-202) and M decoders (203-205) such that $M \geq \text{apprxeq} \frac{K}{3}$, implemented using memory and a single digital signal processing device (DSP), such as a Motorola DSP56000. Each decoder (203-205) comprises only those state variables, stored in memory (not shown), required to operate independently of the other decoders. In this manner, each decoder (203-205) does not require a unique DSP, thus reducing the complexity and cost of the console (122-

124). Through analysis of expected voice packet traffic in heavily loaded communication systems, it has been shown that 30 talkgroups can be supported using 8 decoders, assuming a tolerant delay time of 100 ms or less. The tolerant delay time is that amount of time deemed acceptable in delaying the decoding of voice packets.

In a preferred embodiment, each decoder (203-205) produces decoded voice information in PCM format. Each stream of decoded voice information is digitally summed with the other decoded voice information by the summer (209). The resulting summed PCM data is converted to analog form by the D/A (210) and rendered audible through the speaker (211). Further understanding of the operation of the consoles (122-124) may be gained from FIG. 3.

FIG. 3 illustrates a logic diagram which a console may incorporate to implement the present invention. At step 301, a voice packet is received and, based on its talkgroup ID, the proper dedicated buffer for storage of the voice packet is determined.

If the dedicated buffer is currently empty (302) (i.e., there are no voice packets currently stored in the buffer), a predetermined period of time is begun (309) prior to storing the voice packet in the buffer (310). No further processing of the voice packet is allowed to take place until the predetermined period of time has elapsed (311), at which point it is determined if a decoder is available (304) to convert the voice packet. In a preferred embodiment, the predetermined period of time is set at 30 ms. The predetermined period of time adds delay to the processing of the first received voice packet to compensate for packet delay jitter that may occur during transmission over the telecommunication links (126-128) to ensure that all voice packets associated with a "talkspurt" are correctly decoded. A talkspurt is defined as a sequence of received voice packets corresponding to the same communication. If the first voice packet of a talkspurt is immediately decoded upon reception, it is possible that the second voice packet of the talkspurt could arrive after the decoder has completed decoding the first packet and has been reassigned. Such an event would cause unnatural gaps to occur in the decoded voice information. By delaying processing of the first

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received voice packet, enough voice packets can be stored to ensure that gaps do not occur in the decoded voice.

Applicants respectfully submit that the portion of Huang shown above, which includes the teachings specifically cited by the Office, describes operation of the “consoles 122-124” which the Office identified as teaching Applicants’ “telephone” feature, not the “packet gateway 121” that the Office previously identified as teaching Applicants’ “stationary network device”. Therefore, the cited portion of Huang does not teach applicants’ features “...said stationary network device comprising a buffer that stores digital voice information received from said wireless network for a predetermined queuing period before converting the stored digital voice information into an analog voice stream and delivering the analog voice stream to said telephone;...” and “...said stationary network device converts analog voice streams received from said telephone into voice packets for delivery via said hardwired and wireless networks to a selected one of said plurality of mobile network devices...”, as alleged.

Applicants now address the teachings of Huang at column 2, lines 53-67, which states:

The data routers (207-208) operate to assign a buffer (200-202) to a decoder (203-205) as each decoder becomes available i.e., not in use. In a preferred embodiment, there are K buffers (200-202) and M decoders (203-205) such that $M \leq \text{apprxeq.} K/3$, implemented using memory and a single digital signal processing device (DSP), such as a Motorola DSP56000. Each decoder (203-205) comprises only those state variables, stored in memory (not shown), required to operate independently of the other decoders. In this manner, each decoder (203-205) does not require a unique DSP, thus reducing the complexity and cost of the console (122-124). Through analysis of expected voice packet traffic in heavily loaded communication systems, it has been shown that 30 talkgroups can be supported using 8 decoders, assuming a tolerant delay time of 100 ms or less. The tolerant delay time is that amount of time deemed acceptable in delaying the decoding of voice packets.

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Again, this portion of Huang, specifically cited by the Office, describes the operation of the “consoles 122-124” of Huang, not the “packet gateway 121” that is alleged to correspond to Applicants’ feature “stationary network device”. Therefore, this portion of Huang, specifically identified by the Office, does not teach “...said stationary network device comprising a buffer that stores digital voice information received from said wireless network for a predetermined queuing period before converting the stored digital voice information into an analog voice stream...”, as alleged by the Office.

Finally, Applicants turn to the cited teachings of Huang at column 3, lines 1-11, which states:

...tolerant delay time is that amount of time deemed acceptable in delaying the decoding of voice packets.

In a preferred embodiment, each decoder (203-205) produces decoded voice information in PCM format. Each stream of decoded voice information is digitally summed with the other decoded voice information by the summer (209). The resulting summed PCM data is converted to analog form by the D/A (210) and rendered audible through the speaker (211). Further understanding of the operation of the consoles (122-124) may be gained from FIG. 3.

Applicants have addressed this portion of Huang, above. Again, it is clear that this portion of Huang, specifically cited as teaching Applicants’ feature “...said stationary network device converts analog voice streams received from said telephone into voice packets for delivery via said hardwired and wireless networks to a selected one of said plurality of mobile network devices...”, is describing the operation of the “consoles 122-124” of Huang, not the “packet gateway 121” that the Office has alleged teaches Applicants’ “stationary network device”. Therefore, the Office has failed to show that the “packet gateway 121” of Huang teaches Applicants’ “stationary network device”, and therefore has failed to show that Huang anticipates each and every element of Applicants’ claim 1.

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In addition to the above, Applicants respectfully submit that although the Office may have identified some, but not all, of the functional elements of Applicants' claim 1, the Office has failed to recognize the relationship of the claimed elements to one another. It is not sufficient to simply identify such elements within a reference. Instead, as required by M.P.E.P. §2131, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." In other words, all aspects of the claim must be present for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102, including the functional relationship of one element to another.

Based at least upon the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has failed to show how Huang teaches each and every element of Applicants' claim 1, as required by M.P.E.P. §2131, that the Office has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation, and that a rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) cannot be maintained.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office action rejects independent claims 15, 18, 22, 36, and 39 for the same reasons set forth for the rejection of independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has failed to explain how and why Huang teaches each and every element of claim 1, for at least the reasons set forth above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has also failed to explain how and why Huang teaches each and every element of claims 7, 15, 22, 28, and 36, as required by M.P.E.P. §2131, and that claims 7, 15, 22, 28, and 36 are allowable over Huang, for at least the reasons set forth above.

Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 1, 7, 15, 22, 28, and 36 are allowable over Huang, for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6, 8-14, 16-21, 23-27, 29-35, and 37-42 depend, respectively, from independent claims 1, 7, 15, 22, 28, and 36, and are allowable as well, for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-16, 18-24, 26-28, 30-37, and 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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II. The Proposed Combination Of Huang And Meier Does Not Render Claims 4, 8, 17, 25, 29, And 38 Unpatentable

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4, 8, 17, 25, 29, and 38 are dependent claims depending, respectively, from independent claims 1, 7, 15, 22, 28, and 36. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 7, 15, 22, 28, and 36 are allowable over the proposed combination of references, in that Meier fails to overcome the shortcomings of Huang, as set forth above. Because claims 1, 7, 15, 22, 28, and 36 are allowable over the proposed combination of Huang and Meier, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 4, 8, 17, 25, 29, and 38 are also allowable, for at least the same reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4, 8, 17, 25, 29, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In general, the Office action makes various statements regarding the claims and the cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, Applicants will not address such statements at the present time. However, Applicants expressly reserve the right to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statements should become relevant by appearing in a rejection of any current or future claim).

Applicants believe that claims 1-42 define allowable subject matter, for at least the reasons set forth above, and those presented during prior prosecution. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the finality of the Office action be withdrawn, and that the Office reconsider claims 1-42.

The Applicants believe that all of pending claims 1-42 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 312-775-8000, should the Examiner disagree or have any questions regarding this submission.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fee(s) or credit overpayment(s) to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 7, 2008

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